

Lady Young Paints A Vision For Eye Institute

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Catherine Young, the British High Commissioner's wife, is busy painting. Nothing new, for she is an accomplished artist. Except that the canvas is the wall of the children's wing of Venu Eye Institute And Research Centre, Sheikh Sarai Industrial Area. The Institute thought of brightening up the surroundings of the hospital's children's wing and roped in the British High Commissioner's wife to spruce it up with her brushstrokes.

Young, who does landscapes, still life in water colours and mixed media, has painted a jungle safari. "There is no story, just fun, just an interesting, colourful scene. Children love animals and the nature and I thought that the best way to display that would be to show a family going on an outing to the zoo," explains the artist attired in white floral-printed trousers and a T-shirt. The scene depicted on the wall shows a family in a shocking pink jeep with luggage on the roof and children looking out of the windows, gazing at the animals. To sketch the contours of various species, she took reference from Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. This is not the first time she has painted bamboos and trees on the

wall at her residence. "But here, it is so different, full of energy, very appropriate for children and, of course, bright," said Young who will be having a prints show with Bulbul Sharma and Siddhartha in late autumn. Young was approached by the NGO Savera and she found the concept appealing.

Lending a helping hand to Young with acrylic paint was Sheyna Baig, cricketer Abbas Ali Baig's daughter. "Baig, a very accomplished painter in her own right, was kind enough to offer her help," said Young. Baig paints in

oil, water colours and mixed media. She loves painting lotuses and landscapes so she was only too happy to paint the ponds and fish. Recently Baig has been busy with the Harmony exhibition in Mumbai and now she has started doing portraits to "earn some money."

Baig has also been involved with children for some time now. She takes art classes for slum children and regularly conducts art workshops for the Salaam Balak Trust. Here are two ladies with their heart at the right place. ♦



Sheyna Baig and Catherine Young make an effort to brighten up the children's wing at Venu Eye Institute And Research Centre